

LIKES THE AIR

Caspar Whitney on Climate of the Islands.

ALL MUST TAKE EXERCISE

Trades—Sea Breeze—Rains—Physique of White Born Here—The Industrial Changes

(Caspar Whitney's Hawaiian Letter in Harper's Weekly June 17, 1899.)

Now as to climate. A great deal is said by certain white residents in favor of the Hawaiian climate when the islands are under discussion as a resort for tourists and other pleasure or health seekers; and a great deal is said by the same gentlemen to its discredit when discussed as a field for white, and especially for American, labor.

In point of fact, the climate of Hawaii is perhaps not excelled anywhere else on earth. Large enough as the islands are to have a character of their own, and still in no way to neutralize the peculiarly desirable quality of oceanic environment, the Hawaiian climate is midway between temperate and tropical; tender, yet not enervating; breezy, though not boisterous; with sunshine from which you need no protection, and a rainfall that does not become monotonous.

A veritable land of sunshine and breezes, whose temperature you may vary as you choose from sea level up to Mauna Kea (13,825 feet) or Mauna Loa (13,675). You may leave one side of an island in a rain-storm, and find sunshine on the other; but though there is considerable variety in this respect, the temperature is about uniform, and at sea-level is 74 degrees Fahrenheit. Taken by the year, this average does not vary over a degree one way or the other; taken by the month, the average of the coldest month is 69 degrees, and of the warmest 78 degrees. The extreme lowest temperature is 55 degrees, the highest 90 degrees; and either of these figures has been reached only once in the last dozen years. The average daily range at Honolulu is 11 degrees, and its usual temperature is several degrees cooler than the average of a number of other cities in the same latitude—notably Havana.

The northeast trade winds are the saving feature of the Hawaiian Islands, imparting uniform temperature, healthfulness, and tonicity. The record for fifteen years shows that the least number of trade-wind days per year was 225—the greatest 301—the mean 258. January has a normal average of 14 days of trades, which, as the sun moves north, increase until the normal average reaches 29½ days in July and August, and then begins a corresponding diminution through the autumn months to the end of the year. Oahu and Kauai, of the group, are mostly influenced by these trade winds, which may there be said to blow for nine months of the year. Maui, which is larger, has a few places to leeward, like the town of Lahaina, for instance, where there is a regular land and sea breeze; and Hawaii has a land and sea breeze all the year round. The winter is the least desirable part of the Hawaiian year, for at this time the northeast trade winds are interrupted, and winds from the south and west often prevail for weeks. The south wind, which the natives aptly call the "sick wind," brings rain and often ailment to susceptible foreigners; but there are never hurricanes, and only rarely thunder-storms. This is the time, too, of the "Kona storms" (makani Kona), which come out of the south and west, and sometimes for a week hold a section in the gloom of rain and wind before they finally wear off to the northwest and the country smiles again. The most delightful months of the year are April, May, June, July and September. The yearly average rainfall of Oahu is about 40 inches; of Maui, 25 to 30; of Kauai, 55; and on Hawaii, with its dry side and its very wet side, it varies so much as to necessitate more detailed figures; in the Kona coffee belt, on the dry side, the average rainfall is about 60 inches; in the Oloa district it is 175 inches; in the Hilo forest, 200 inches; and immediately around the town of Hilo, from 130 to 150 inches.

What particularly impressed me in the Hawaiian climate—and I cite my experience because I do not, as a rule, care for these too balmy climates—was the absence of an enervating quality. Some say that such an influence does attend upon long residence on the islands, but my investigations suggest that only white women who never take exercise are so affected. The Hawaiian-born children of foreign parents bloom like the foliage under which they play; it would be difficult indeed to improve on the physique of the boys and young men born of white parents in Hawaii, whom I saw in the racing-shells, in the yachts, in swimming, and on the streets of Honolulu. Those in the United States who really wish to see what Hawaiian climate does for children of white parents should view the members of the "Hawaiian Club" at Yale or at Harvard. It is a notable fact that the white-born Hawaiians who have come to American universities have been much above the average in physique, as the athletic records attest; and I have in mind four sons of one distinguished family that have come to Yale, whose physical magnificence would boom any climate or stir the pride of any mother's heart, wherever it beat.

Men and women who take no exercise find after a time semi-tropical climates enervating. It is the law of the human system and of the land.

It is natural to conclude this chapter with a word or so on the islands as a field of venture for the individual immigrant. Let me say at the outset that Hawaii is no land of promise for indigent adventurers; neither is there here an agricultural bonanza. The islands can easily support a very much greater number of people than now live upon them, but it will not be until there has been a decided readjustment of the land, labor, and transportation questions.

The great industry is the production of sugar, which requires large capital. The rice industry is in the hands of the Chinese, and there is no public sugar or rice land to be had. The coffee industry is really the only one offering immediate opportunities to the immigrant, but for the development of a coffee plantation of even moderate size some capital is needed.

There are opportunities in fruit-growing—if the steamer rates are ever lowered—and in fruit-canning; but these also require capital. There is a field of endeavor in raising grapes, oranges, lemons, vegetables—which now come from California, because no one supplies the Hawaiian market—but all these also take some capital. Not only capital, but brains and industry and skill. The government is surveying as rapidly as possible land that is to be thrown open to settlement, but it is put on the market slowly, and never in quantities sufficient for any considerable number of new-comers.

The new lands on the island of Hawaii are off the (at present) one road, although other roads are soon to be constructed. The low-lying flat lands with abundant water-supply are all taken up. There does remain a considerable area to be disposed of as surveys are completed and as old leases expire, principally lands suited to coffee cultivation. Small farming, as I have said, is greatly handicapped by the high inter-island transportation rates.

With this data in hand, gathered by my personal tour of the islands, the best advice I can give to those looking Hawaiiward is to reiterate that offered, by Mr. J. F. Brown, the public lands agent.

Don't go to Hawaii as a sort of forlorn hope, without experience, without money—trusting to good luck.

Don't go to plant coffee without necessary capital.

Don't expect to find a country where hard work, care, and economy are not necessary.

Don't go without getting reliable information in advance.

But if you do go, after finally considering the matter, and take experience and energy and sufficient capital to insure you against want and enable you to study the situation on the ground before making a final decision, you will be warmly welcomed; and what has been a kindly country to others may also prove so to you.

BET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

It Goes Forward Despite Threats of Two Years Ago. (S. F. Chronicle.)

The Oxnards, who declared two years ago that if Hawaii were annexed they would not spend another dollar on California beet sugar propositions, have been fully as active in that respect since annexation as they were before. The latest news from them is of a \$750,000 investment in a Ventura beet ranch of 5000 acres, which they have added to one of 7000 acres already in hand. This ranch is to be divided into small tracts and occupied by beet-growers who will raise the product used in the Oxnards' million-dollar factory.

Evidently the sugar magnates have recovered from their scare. Not only is Hawaii in the Union and producing more sugar than ever, but we are fighting to bring the Philippines in also. Porto Rico is in the same status as Hawaii, and Cuba is likely, if not annexed, to get a reciprocity treaty. Nevertheless, the investments in beet sugar properties are piling up, and will, we think, continue to do so until the combined production of cane and beet sugar supplies the local demand and keeps pace with its increase.

That will take some time. We are now importing 4,918,905.733 pounds of sugar annually, and paying \$99,056.181 for it, while the amount of our per capita consumption is steadily gaining. Adding Porto Rico, the Philippines and Cuba will by no means glut the market. Porto Rico produces 60,000 tons, the Philippines 250,000 tons and Cuba 850,000 tons, or 2,578,650.000 pounds in all. This is 2,340,225.733 pounds less than the American importations, of which, besides, it makes a part. Obviously, therefore, beet sugar production and manufacture has an ample field.

SCHOOLS ON LUZON.

Daughters of Col. Egbert are Engaged as Teachers.

NEW YORK, July 2.—A Sun cable from Manila says: Gen. Otis has undertaken to make the attendance of school children compulsory, and the police have been instructed to see that all those of school age, which is between 6 and 12 years, obey the regulation. It is generally thought, however, that the police will have little to do in this direction for the reason that the natives, as a rule, are anxious to have their children taught. Pupils will be taught English for an hour each day, this being the first time any concerted attempt has been made to teach the language. The Government has appointed several American teachers, among them being three daughters of the late Col. Egbert, of the Twenty-second Infantry. This is the first visible operation on the masses of the new civil government, and it indicates one phase of the character of the Philippines, who have constitutionally contended for free public education.

IN A BEAR TONE

Willett & Gray Less Confident of the Future

Further Improvement Problematical—Increase in Production Hawaii is Mentioned.

The latest Willett & Gray sugar circular says under the subject of raws: Recently we wrote: "There are no signs of any change for the immediate future so long as the European markets make no special movement." This week it is necessary to curtail somewhat the strong feeling regarding the sugar position that we have held with confidence and success for several months past. Not that we are looking for any material decline, but it now seems to us that a further improvement is somewhat problematical. During the present week European markets have made a very sharp reaction or rather decline, if the down movement should not be recovered. The reason assigned is that the Paris operators for an advance have realized largely on their contracts. It will be noted that for a few weeks past we have printed opinions of the two sides of the market from our Paris correspondents. It now appears that the bear side has made the most progress thus far, which may or may not remain permanent. We, however, think it well to call attention to some important changes in the sugar conditions of the world, which may prevent the expectation of a further long-continued improvement in quotations, unless important crops should suffer damage. From data now at hand there is a moderate increase in the estimates of the world's old crop supplies, say for Cuba 15,000 tons, Argentine Republic 10,000 tons, Australia 15,000 tons, and European beets 20,000 tons, a total of 60,000 tons. Not a large increase by itself, and of no special importance, but the notable feature of the sugar situation is the largely improved prospects of the crops for the next campaign. These improved outlooks come from the crops of Europe, Brazil, Australia, Mauritius, Cuba, Hawaii, Louisiana, and last, but no longer least, the United States Domestic beet crop. Our correspondence from Cuba gives a marked improvement in the conditions there. Louisiana gives decidedly good indications and there is no question about a largely increased domestic beet crop. Neither will Hawaii be behind in its pro rata of increase. These crops named, with their increase of supplies for the United States, in connection with Java and other cane sugar countries, will leave a more unfavorable market condition for the beet crops with our counter-vailing duties against their high bounties than they have yet experienced.

For these reasons, in careful consideration of the outlook ahead, we incline to think that raw sugars may have reached the maximum price; but there is no good reason to expect a decline of consequence until such time as the features mentioned actually come into operation, which may not be for some time, yet. At present there is a good, healthy demand for all sugars offered for sale, and the European decline in beet sugar is in part the readjustment of old crop to new crop values, by a decline in old rather than an advance in new. October delivery new crop beets have been quoted at 10s., while old crop was selling at 11s. 2d. prompt, and the prices are now drawing together to the disadvantage of the new crop, a further indication that what we have written about the outlook for next season may be also recognized abroad. Locally, our market for the week has shown an easier tendency in sympathy with Europe, and a decline of 1-16c. per lb. has been made, although the latest sale of centrifugals under exceptional conditions, perhaps, was at a gain of 1-32c.

It will be seen that no note is taken of certain increase in consumption of sugar throughout the world.

IN BELGIUM.

BRUSSELS, July 2.—Belgium is on the threshold of a revolution. Cheered by their gains of the last few days, the Socialists and Radicals have now united in an unconditional demand for universal suffrage. The truce between the people and the Government will end on Tuesday, and on that day the Government must give its answer. Tonight it looks as if a refusal would mean civil war and end the monarchy. Belgium was in a ferment today. There were serious clashes at Liege and Alost, and disorderly mass meetings and processions in nearly every city and town. The police were invariably worsted in the encounters. The officials of Antwerp, Ghent, Brussels and Liege have notified the Government that they cannot be responsible for life and property.

RECOMMENDED FOR CHOLERA MORBUS.

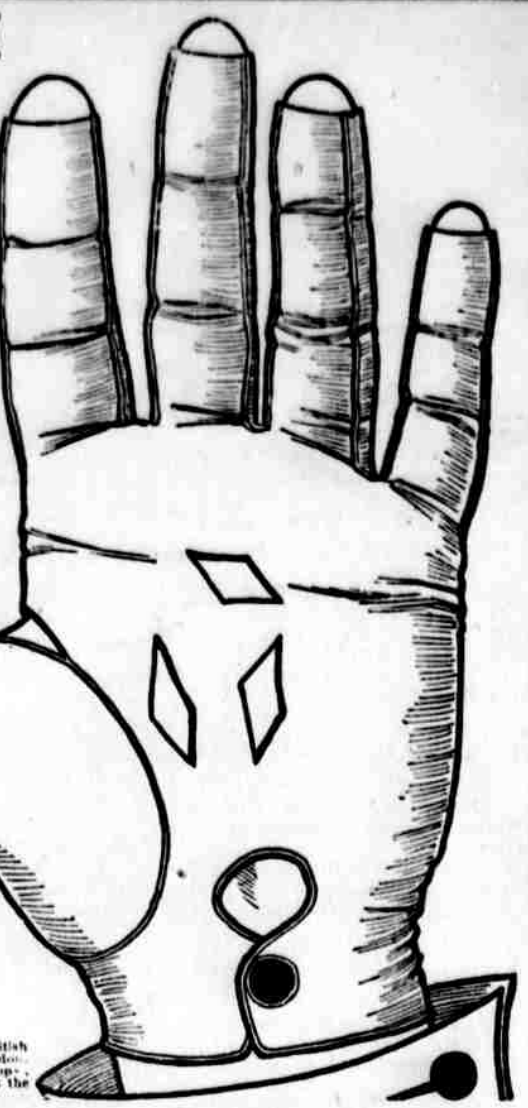
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